RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

OCTOBER, 1879.

DUBLIN, AND SOME OF ITS INSTITUTIONS.

A PART of our summer vacation was spent in a visit to dear friends in Dublin, and to some of the institutions of that capital. It was our first visit to Ireland, and it was only natural that we felt deeply interested in much that we saw. The Bank, with its old and new machinery for the rapid production of Irish notes, excited our curiosity. Then Trinity College, opposite, with its vast city area and its great educational appliances, attracted our attention. Afterwards, Dublin Castle, with its chapel, remarkable for its superb carvings in oak, called forth our admiration. The great Dublin brewery belonging to Sir Arthur Guinness came under our notice, and where we found from the officials courtesy and attention. They accompanied us through some of the main parts of the establishment, and explained the processes, from the bringing in of the malt and hops to the loading of the barges on the Liffey with the barrels for exportation. Of course, when the passages were many miles in length, we could traverse, comparatively, only a very small portion. Our hasty visit left a deep impression of the powers and adaptation of machinery and the marvellous display of organisation. The Phœnix Park was all alive with military parade, and with a sham fight. The Hibernian School, in the same park, for the sons of Irish soldiers, was duly visited, the English prototype of which is the Duke of York's School in Chelsea. Through the kindness of the superintendent we went through the establishment, but the time of our visit was not favourable for seeing the institution in full work, and we had not another opportunity.

THE UNION WORKHOUSE.

A peculiar circumstance led us to the Union, where 3,000 inmates were provided for, and, to some limited extent, employed. The poor things occupying the wards and yards for the demented

excited our deepest sympathy, and yet it was evident that great attention was paid to cleanliness, to comfort, and for meeting the individual idiosyncrasies of the inmates. We had but very recently gone over the Brookwood Asylum, near Woking, in Surrey. The contrast between the two in the character of buildings, furniture, area, attendance, and creature comforts, was of the most marked degree. The latter palatial, the former, in comparison, a hovel; and yet the inmates appeared more happy and at home in the Union at Dublin than at the asylum in Surrey.

The Refuge Home on the north of the city, bearing the name St. Vincent de Paul, with its 100 orphan boys, was visited. The building is superior, and lately enlarged to double its former accommodation. The superintendent conducted us over the establishment. It is not, we believe, a certified Industrial School, but very much of an Orphan Asylum. There was wanting a trim and cleanly finish about the place that had attracted our attention and admiration elsewhere.

Near this Refuge Home we found the great cemetery for Roman Catholics, and went through a considerable portion of it, remarking on the number and costliness of the monuments, and the general care taken of the ground. The great central object of the whole is the permanent tomb of O'Connell. We say "permanent" because his body for years was in what may now be called his temporary tomb. A little silver key caused the iron gate of the tomb to open for our admission, and we stood in the presence-chamber of the remains of one who in his time ruled, more than any other man, the passions of his fellow-countrymen, and who is remembered by them as a kind of demigod. We had noticed the statues in the city to King William, to Nelson, to Sir John Grey, to Burke, to Goldsmith, to O'Brien, to Gratton, but nowhere did we notice one to O'Connell. We remarked on this, and found that this omission is not to continue, for the late Mr. Foley designed a statue of him, and which is being executed by Mr. Brock, but which will take three years to complete. In 1881 it will probably be placed in position in Sackville Street, near Carlisle Bridge, now being rebuilt the full width of that wide thoroughfare.

The respect paid to the memory of the dead, so evident in the cemetery north of the city, by Roman Catholics, we found equally as great in the Protestant cemetery of St. Jerome, in the south of the city.

We were glad to find, on a visit to the Horticultural Gardens, that the great storm that had done so much mischief at home had not reached Dublin.

We were fortunate in being present in Dublin when a new industry was inaugurated. "New" in Dublin, but old in London. We refer to an organised brigade of street shoeblacks. On the *first day* stations were provided for four boys in their new red jerseys. These stations were evidently the most valuable spots in the city, such as the Bank and the General Post Office. The appearance of these boys at their respective stations drew large concourses of on-lookers; in one company under the portico of the Post Office we counted forty persons. The police were lenient, and seemed to look upon it as a "nine days' wonder," and not to need their interference. During *the next five days* stations were provided for six boys engaged, and on the following *three days* eight stations were occupied. On asking one of the shoeblacks late in the afternoon if he had been successful, he left us to judge of the success by telling us his earnings, that day, had been three shillings and tenpence. Not bad for the Irish capital and for a new occupation. The number in the brigade will be further extended as the boys are trained to the work and the funds received to provide them with the needful outfit. Should the present effort prove a success, other brigades will be formed, such as the messengers, the housework boys, &c. This effort is the work of Mr. F. M. Caulfeild, a divinity student, and of course his college duties must be his first consideration. He has therefore wisely decided to put an end to the responsibility of being single-handed, and will seek the aid of others to co-operate with him in his efforts to benefit the Dublin boys. The following letter appeared in all the Dublin papers while we were in the city:—

SHOEBLACKS' BRIGADE.

SIR,—Would you allow me the use of your columns to state that a movement is at present on foot to establish a shoeblack brigade, similar—though necessarily on a much smaller scale—to those in London. It is intended that the brigade should consist at first of sixteen members, and that it should be utilised to give employment to lame and cripple boys who otherwise find it difficult to earn a livelihood. "Vested interests," however, will not be overlooked, and eight of the sixteen boys who have been chosen to constitute the brigade at its origination are at present already employed as shoeblacks about the city. The uniforms, boxes,

brushes, &c., all of the most approved description, have been already obtained, and a house is about being taken in which the boys, presided over by a matron, will lodge. A considerable outlay has already been made, and at least £50 will be required to equip the boys and furnish their lodgings, though the brigade will be ultimately quite self-supporting. The following subscriptions have already been received:—Captain Prior, Madame Fisher, William Goff, Esq.; Henry Hall, Esq.; Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. J. Cooper, T. W. Fair, Esq.; F. Sutton, Esq.; S. Law, Esq., £1 each; A. J. Shaw, £7; Rev. W. E. Burrough, Messrs. R. H. Wall, F. Vernon, the Hon. R. Handcock, Miss Franklin, 10s. each; Messrs. Owen Armstrong, E. L. Franklin, M. Carr and C., fruiterers, 5s. each. —I am, sir, yours FRANCIS M. CAULFEILD.

P.S.—Any contributions forwarded to me to 22, Trafalgar Terrace, Monkstown, will be duly acknowledged.

Mr. Caulfeild commenced his work with caution, and began on the good principle of creeping before walking; but the help at present given has sufficiently encouraged him to persevere, as will be seen by his last letter to the various Dublin papers, which has just come under our notice.

DUBLIN SHOEBLACK AND MESSENGER BRIGADE.

DEAR SIR,—This brigade has now been working for nearly a month, and the success which has attended the effort has given me every satisfaction. I have now altogether ten hands at work, and intend to increase the number each week. I have already had occasion to dismiss four of the boys. Few can realise the number of pence taken by the thirty shoeblacks, who are at work either on the staff of the brigade or on their own account along the quays. This, with a knowledge of what some crossing sweepers receive, convinces me that at least fifty boys could earn a good living by plying either of these remunerative employments, were they formed into a well-organised, *licensed* brigade.

I am aware that shoeblacks in uniform were started in Dublin eight years ago, but speedily came to grief owing to their being under no discipline or control. The public will therefore be glad to know that I am about to form a committee who will carry out on a more extended scale the work which I have begun; keeping its constitution unsectarian, and who will ever have it as their chief object to give employment to the many lame and crippled boys in our city.

In order that the undertaking may prove a complete success, I feel sure it will be necessary to have a special house as a home for the boys, and when an appeal is shortly made for this purpose I venture to hope that many will be anxious to aid this most deserving object.—I remain, dear sir, very faithfully yours,

Sept. 12th, 1879. FRANCIS M. CAULFEILD.

This letter was in *all* the morning as well as evening papers.

The help received by him when we left was £30 towards the needed £50. In the first nine days the few boys employed earned £8 11s. 9d. This total gives nearly three shillings as the daily average takings for each boy. We say takings rather than earnings, because on watching the work done we noticed a kind-hearted Englishman having his shoes polished, and when done he gave the boy sixpence and waited not for either thanks or change. It would have been better to have gone six different times for a polish and for the money to have been fairly earned by the boy. The rules under which these boys operate are similar to those that have proved so useful to the London shoeblacks from the year 1851 to 1879: during those twenty-eight years they earned £195,403.

The institution that most excited our admiration was the Artane Certified Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys. It is situated near Clontarf, on the Malabide Road, on the north side of the city. There were present at the time of our visit 700 boys, the great majority of whom were then employed in the various shops. The managing director, and evidently the main spring of the establishment, is the Rev. Mr. Hoope, who is assisted by eighteen "brothers," each taking charge of given sections of the whole. Mr. Hoope, after a little introductory conversation, found we were interested in English institutions, and were desirous to see how those in Ireland were conducted. He gave us a hearty reception, and under his guidance we soon found ourselves in his various working hives. The one we went into first was a large room, with about 150 little boys, from seven to nine years of age, ranged round the room, all facing to the centre, the whole very busy at knitting worsted stockings. All were dressed in a clean white blouse, and in slippers. They gave us a recognition on entering the room, but took no further notice of us, every one being intent on his work. We noticed here and there older lads, apparently not employed; the explanation was that these were in charge of a certain number of the knitters, and had to see that all in his section were properly at work, had all proper materials, and if a mistake had been made by any he was ready to correct it. In order to keep him up to the mark, and to sustain his vigilance he was allowed a money interest in the results of the day's work. The same scheme is adopted in all the shops, and the manager seemed thoroughly satisfied with it, for he finds by it the quantity of the work done is greatly increased, and at the same time the quality is improved. The next large room into

which we were taken was filled by young musicians, a few learning the notes, as illustrated on a black board, but the great proportion practising on their respective instruments. From this room we went to another furnished with pianos and harmoniums. Upon them the boys were practising, evidently with some skill. The manager, patting one on the head, asked for a song to accompany the instrument. At first, as strangers were present, he seemed a little shy, but soon gathered courage, and sang as nicely as he played. We passed on through a long succession of shops, such as the tailors, the shoemakers, the carpenters, the cabinet-makers, the weavers, the wheelwrights, the tinmen, the blacksmiths, &c. The variety of work being so great, it was practicable when a boy was first admitted to place him in the shop where he was most conversant with that work, or to the same trade as his father, if fitted for it. In this way a trade difficulty was partly met, for little or no objection was made to the goods so produced being sent into the ordinary markets, especially when there was an effort not to undersell the outside workers. To this school is attached a farm of more than one hundred acres, cultivated by the elder boys and farm instructors. On two large fields which we passed on our way from the entrance gate we saw on one a crop of wheat, and on the other of cabbages; from the fine condition of both crops we concluded that deep spade husbandry had been adopted to prepare the land for such superior crops.

Before leaving we paid a visit to two of the dormitories. These contained 150 beds in each. There was a separate iron bedstead for each boy, and so arranged that from either end the whole could be seen at once. In one dormitory the counterpanes were snow-white. In the other the counterpanes were white, with a pattern in the centre, which added to the cheerfulness of the apartment. The building being comparatively new, the floors were remarkable for cleanliness, and the ventilation all that could be desired.

In conversation with Mr. Hoope before leaving, we learned that on no consideration would he admit a boy that had been convicted of felony. He drew a very just distinction between the reformatory and the industrial school. To the former he would remit all boys convicted of serious crime of whatever degree, and to the latter admit those whose misfortune it was to be friendless, homeless, destitute, and consequently on the verge of becoming criminals.

We were glad to find that his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland and the Duchess of Marlborough take a deep interest in these institutions, and at the time of our visit had invited a large number of the children to spend an August day in the grounds of the Viceregal Lodge, Phœnix Park. The institutions so favoured were—

1. The Royal Hibernian Military School.
2. The Meath Industrial School for Protestant Boys.
3. The Artane Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys.

The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough who planned this very interesting *fête* for the encouragement and pleasure of the children, had the satisfaction of witnessing its success. The rendezvous appointed was the Zoological Gardens, and at one o'clock the general muster was made there. After roaming about through the grounds, and seeing the collection of animals, the boys' bugler of the little regiment from the Hibernian School sounded the assembly, and all the boys fell into the ranks with considerable speed. Colonel Cotton, the commandant, and Colonel Speedy were at the head of the military school. Mr. Vance, one of the committee, the Rev. Mr. Rambant, chaplain, and Dr. Gowon, hon. secretary, accompanied the boys of the Meath School, and the Rev. Mr. Hoope, manager, took charge of the Artane contingent. Two excellent bands were in attendance, the one from the Hibernian Military School, the other from the Artane Industrial School. The Hibernian Military School marched out steadily in the van with an air of importance not unbecoming though somewhat amusing, while they played with great fervour "The British Grenadiers." They were followed by the boys of the Meath School, numbering sixty, and the boys of the Artane Industrial School, 600 strong, brought up the rear. All were comfortably and neatly dressed, and looked healthy and contented. The Rev. Mr. Hoope, managing director, took charge of those from Artane. The weather, though rather gusty, was bright and bracing, and the spectacle was vivid and imposing as the little army of over 1,000 boys marched along, with bands playing joyously, under the stately trees, through the pleasant avenue leading to the Viceregal Lodge. At two o'clock, true to their appointment, they reached the terrace in front of the house, where they found the Duchess of Marlborough and several members of her Grace's family and household waiting to give them a genial welcome. As they defiled past her Grace they respectfully saluted, and her Grace

bowed in return. Among those who were present at the reception were Lady Georgiana Spencer Churchill, Lady Sarah Spencer Churchill, the Marchioness of Camden, the Earl and Countess of Granard, the Ladies Forbes, the Earl and Countess of Meath, Lord and Lady K. Brabazon, Lord Portarlington, Mr. Justice Harrison, John Lentainge, C.B., Dr. Baxter, medical officer of the Hibernian School, and others connected with the management of the industrial schools in Ireland. After a short rest upon the grass the boys received refreshments, which were very acceptable. Her Grace personally superintended this distribution, and observed with pleasure the orderly and decorous manner in which the boys of the various Schools comported themselves at table. After dinner they were entertained by an exhibition of the wondrous effects of the phonograph, the construction of which was explained to them. The Schools then engaged with great zest in a variety of sports, for which her Grace had provided 100 prizes. A couple of showers interrupted the games, but they were resumed with fresh energy, and kept up until the shades of evening gradually increased. The boys then fell into ranks, and, after giving hearty cheers for her Grace, returned homewards in carriages specially provided by the Duchess of Marlborough, who had foreseen that such an arrangement would not be unacceptable to her "little army" when in retreat.

MILLWALL DOCKS MISSION.

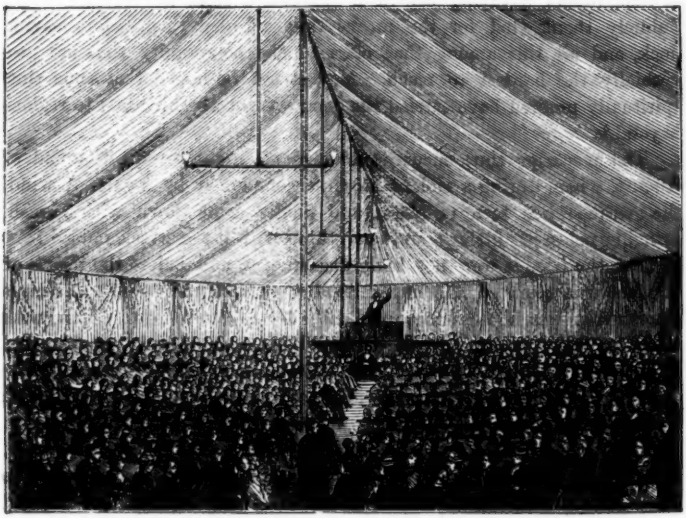
We desire to speak a little, and very briefly, concerning an evangelistic work commenced last summer amongst the sailors, dock labourers, and others abounding about the Millwall Docks, Isle of Dogs, E., by the friends of the Kingsland Gospel Mission, whose work in another part of the island was noticed in the *Ragged School Quarterly Record* for July, 1878.

The commencement of this work was brought about by the erection of a very large marquee very near one of the main entrances to the Millwall Docks in July of last year, which soon became the centre of considerable interest. Hundreds flocked readily to hear the gospel; on some occasions the side of the tent, which held about 600, had to be taken down for the convenience of the numbers unable to find room inside.

The wide field and its need for labour that must yet exist, in spite of what is being done in some directions, for efforts of a Christian and

elevating character will be apparent to all who consider for a moment the state of the masses of struggling poor that congregate around the docks and along the river side, together with the immense maritime traffic of the port of London. Speaking of the latter, it is estimated that there are a thousand vessels loading and unloading every day in London, and that ten thousand sailors are constantly sojourning in port, while the number of dock labourers employed in loading and unloading cargoes must be as great or greater.

The ordinary calling of the toilers of the deep renders them for months together entirely inaccessible to the ordinary means of grace. Their home is their ship, their parish the wide wide sea, in whose green



waves their mortal remains often find their last resting place till the sea shall give up her dead. Unless the captain be a God-fearing man, there is but little notice taken of or reverence paid to the Sabbath. Thus it is sad to think of the thousands of brave and noble men whose lives are carried in their hands, spending their shadowy days amid so few comforts and surrounded by so much that encourages the evil of the human heart to open and avowed ungodliness, to reap at length the bitter consequences of an evil course incurred without a friendly warning or a living, loving Christianity to welcome to a holier life.

Nor are the influences that surround our seafaring sons all that could be wished when they come into port. Indeed it is notorious how

cunningly the traps are laid that inveigle the sailor immediately he sets his foot ashore. These things, together with the low *morale* of the ordinary dock labourers, who are recruited from the ranks of those that have sunk to the lowest round of the social ladder, make us hail with something more than approval any well-directed efforts that Chrstian zeal can with wisdom suggest and carry out that are calculated to lead our seafaring sons and waterside populations to leave the paths of evil, of whatever form, and live noble lives of righteousness, peace, and love.

Such then was the character of the Christian work here briefly spoken of, and which has been attended with much success. Very many instances of remarkable conversions have been made known from time to time, others receiving benefit or instruction from the services would publicly thank God for the means thus afforded them before leaving dock, and all this among that class of the community that are proverbially the hardest to reach. May it not be hoped that some thus spiritually profited have carried the good seed of the kingdom to regions beyond?

The meetings thus encouraged went on nightly until the end of August, when, during a violent storm, accompanied by a gale of wind, the marquee was torn to pieces and finally came down with a crash, bringing poles, gas-fittings, and everything with it: a wreck indeed!

But the friends were not easily discouraged, and before the *débris* of the tent was removed, the superintendent had found there was a large storeshed or warehouse unoccupied close to the dock gates. This, with some trouble and expense, he managed to secure for six months, and soon the busy hands of the converts transformed it into a respectable meeting place, and here the services were carried on again nightly all through the severe winter that followed with continued signs of blessing. It now became apparent that the interest awakened was not illusionary, and steps for its permanent establishment and development were the consequence. This leads us to say that before the period had expired when the accommodating old store had to be delivered up (it having been required for other purposes), a good piece of ground was secured upon a long lease and plans prepared to erect thereon a suitable building, of a plain but substantial character, containing a large room for evangelistic meetings, holding about 300 persons, with convenient rooms above and offices. A large room will be used as a workman's reading room and a sailor's rest. The strictest economy is observed, and the whole is contracted for at under a throusand pounds.

But it may be asked, What has become of the efforts since the store was given up? and we gladly say that they have not fallen through in the interim, for the friends managed to secure a cart shed which, though small, with a little contrivance, has been turned into some good account.

The loft over is used for the Sunday school, the ground floor having to serve for adult meetings, which still go on every night and with continued tokens of blessing, though from want of space the work is seriously circumscribed, and at first many had to be turned back who could not get in. Before we close this little sketch, it will be interesting to many to say that a Board School was hired in the neighbourhood during the winter months, wherein the work of Ragged School instruction was maintained on three evenings per week for boys and girls; but boys were most numerous, owing to the large numbers employed hereabouts. Most of the teachers in this work were converts from the

tent and warehouse. To this part of the work the Committee of the Ragged School Union lent their valuable aid.

But in closing we return for a moment to say that considering the need that existed for the new building to be finished before the approaching winter, and having a few hundred pounds subscribed for the purpose, the responsible managers of the mission felt led to advise its commencement, which was accordingly begun early in June. A simple memorial stone, ascribing praise of God for His mercies and blessings in the progress of the work, was laid on July 14, by Thomas A. Denny, Esq., who has thus shown his sympathy with the work. A very

happy season was afterwards enjoyed, when several speakers gave most vivid sketches of their former graceless lives and bore testimony to the happy change brought about by the services referred to.

It remains to say that the new premises are rapidly approaching completion, which may be expected to be ready early in October. The Committee of the Mission have just paid over to the builder the whole of the funds they have received, namely, £500, and are consequently most anxious to receive further help, so that by the time the premises are opened they may be able to meet the demands that then will be due. They feel desirous to ask the Lord's servants to share with them the trial thus imposed. The straitness of the times make many withhold, but cannot many send a thank-offering for continued mercies in these times of drought?

The following well-known Christians have promised to become trustees for the premises, which may be taken as a sufficient guarantee, in addition to the assurance given by the antecedents of the principal workers themselves. The Trustees are F. A. Bevan, Thomas A. Denny, and S. Gurney Sheppard, Esqs. The General Superintendent is Mr. William Chorley, 79, Norfolk Road, Islington, N., who would be thankful to receive communications or supply a Report of the Mission for the past year. The Bankers of the Mission are Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co., 54, Lombard Street, who would receive contributions; as also would Mr. J. G. Gent, at the Office of the Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

W. H. SMITH, M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty), ON EDUCATION, PAST AND PRESENT.

Mr. Smith when attending a meeting at Henley-on-Thames on September, 13, 1879, said "that during the last few years much attention had been directed, and very properly directed, to the provision of sufficient and suitable means for the instruction of the children of the whole country. The State was now as careful of the education of children in remote and distant parts of the kingdom as it was in the large towns, and in places which were as favourably circumstanced as the town of Henley was in the matter of education. It appeared to him to be a duty incumbent on the State to see that all children had facilities for obtaining that education which was necessary for the discharge of the duties which would devolve upon them in the future. The educational work which had been done up to the year 1870 was a work which reflected the highest possible credit on all those who were con-

cerned in it, and for his own part he confessed that he attached far more importance to the work which was done prior to that year—which was done as a work of love—than he did to work which was the result of orders emanating from a central authority and under directions carried out by the machinery of local government. We owed a deep debt of gratitude to these who concerned themselves about the education of the people before 1870, and even now we owed much to those who, as in that town, charged themselves—regarding it as a religious duty—with the care and concern of the education of the youth of the country. His belief was that work done in that way—done in the spirit of love and benevolence, and from a sense of high religious duty—was work which in all probability was far better done, and would, by the blessing of God, be followed by far better results than work done simply by order of the central authority, and as the result of the directions of the Government. The Education Act was necessary—it was unavoidable—but work undertaken from a high sense of duty by those who cared and concerned themselves deeply about it must always be of far higher value than work which was the result of system and rule and order without love. He ventured to hope that the same spirit of care and concern for the young which had induced them to furnish those admirable schools would animate them to carry on the work which had been going on so satisfactorily and well in the actual training and education of the children themselves. A great deal had been said about education during the last five or six years. It had been a favourite topic and the subject of many addresses and speeches, and he could not hope to add anything new to what had been said by wiser and better men than himself when he reverted for a minute or two to the subject of education and the purpose which they all had in view. The object of education was to fit children to perform their duty in life. It was not to raise them out of the position in which it had pleased God to place them. Education was a very wide term indeed, and he was inclined to say that the words of Solomon, 'Train up a child in the way he should go,' &c., gave a much better indication of the highest kind of education than any he could give or which they saw or heard out of doors. We wanted to direct a child in the way in which he should go and in the way in which should be best for him in future life; to fit him to discharge the duty of a good son, a wise and judicious husband, and a loyal subject, with a full sense of the responsibility which he owed to his sovereign, his country, and his God. In saying that he did not advocate the piling of subject upon subject, the straining after what appeared to him an unattainable standard of excellence, the pushing and driving of children from one point to another, from one subject to another, with the view of making them wiser. The object was to make them wiser and better men, but it

appeared to him that endeavouring to crowd into the short years of school life a variety of subjects, none of which a child could master, would leave the child with a sense of insufficiency and comparative failure. If the subjects were confined to three or four the child would be enabled to ground himself and take a grasp of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and gain a power which would enable him to find the sources of knowledge. If such a course were adopted we should have better and more productive results for the country than if it were attempted to lead him into fields of knowledge which could only be tasted now and then. Let their aim be to make a child a good father and a good man, more useful, stronger, more vigorous, and more self-reliant. Let nothing be attempted which would not be done thoroughly and heartily and with a deep sense of responsibility and duty. If that course were pursued, he believed the results would be satisfactory to all concerned; not only to the teachers, to whom the task of teaching was always laborious and often thankless, but to parents, to those who cared and concerned themselves deeply for the welfare of their neighbours, and to the State and to the country at large. Voluntary labour had furnished the country with its universities and public schools, and with all these monuments of learning and culture and civilisation which existed at the present time; and it would do so in time to come if they all felt that they were indeed their brother's keeper, that they had a deep, real, and living responsibility for those who were around them."

BOYS' INSTITUTES.

How to cater for boys of an evening when they are free from their usual employments so as to find useful and elevating occupation in which they would find a growing interest, is a subject that is pressing itself upon the attention of Christian philanthropists. A similar question some twenty years ago was under consideration for men, especially single men, whose presence in the home, when of very limited duration, and shared by several persons, was considered undesirable on one hand, and on the other they were uneasy, because they felt they were in the way, hence they sought refuge in the public-house or beershop. For these were started the Working Men's Clubs, and when these had been tried in several places both in town and country, and found to be useful both to the men and their families, efforts were made to increase their number where they were known, and to introduce them where they were required but unknown. For this purpose, among others, the Working Men's Club Union was formed, and which has been instrumental in meeting the necessities of the men to a very considerable extent.

Boys' Institutes are rather novel than new, for it is many years since

that Mr. Baker, of Kensington, gave form to the conception, and it is several years ago when the late Mr. Tabrum and the Rev. Mr. Sweetman commenced another, the attractions of which were so great as to gain the attention of many hundreds of youths, and excite the admiration of some hundreds of parents. The members of these Institutes belonged to a very respectable section of the community, but there was no reason why they should be limited to that section. Mr. Quinton Hogg's attention was drawn to the necessity for something of a similar kind for the working boys of London, and formed the nucleus of it with the lads at the Ragged School in Castle Street, Long Acre, and since removed to large and suitable premises at Long Acre, where it is carried on with considerable vigour, and forms a model of its kind. For the same class of boys Mr. Hill, jun., has interested himself, and who has been greatly encouraged and supported by Alderman Sir R. W. Carden. A committee with officers were appointed at a meeting held in the Mansion House, and presided over by the Lord Mayor. A house was taken in the Whitechapel Road, near the London Hospital, by this committee, and fitted up as their first Institute. It was generally thought that the Mansion House Committee would be a General or Central Committee, and give succour and encouragement to Institutes in all parts of the country, making London the chief area of their mission. Nearly three years, however, having elapsed since the formation of the Mansion House Committee, and having in that time taken no other step to extend the movement than the forming of the one in the Whitechapel Road, there was a little uneasiness among those who, while they were usefully conducting their own little effort, felt they were too isolated, and therefore weak. They adopted the idea that "Union is strength," and began to take steps to give effect to it.

Some of these good workers made an urgent application to the Committee of the Ragged School Union to take these Institutes under their fostering care. This application was warmly supported by several members of that body. After some little discussion a special sub-committee was appointed further to consider the subject, and to report upon it when prepared. This sub-committee has had several sittings, has had the services of the society's officers, and has reported their proceedings to the Managing Committee. A part of that report advised the convening of a conference of those friends interested in these Institutes, which would furnish an opportunity for these friends to become acquainted with each other, and for them to give expression to their wants and wishes, and might perhaps form the basis, or point out the basis, for mutual co-operation and the extension of the movement. The conference was agreed upon, and the Secretary requested to convene it, who at once issued the following invitation to every Institute of which he had any knowledge:—

CONFERENCE ON YOUTHS' INSTITUTES.

1, Exeter Hall, Strand, June 7th, 1879.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union, having been urgently requested by some of the friends interested in these Institutes to devise some scheme by which their extension, permanence and usefulness may be promoted, they think the first step should be to convene a conference of those persons who are practically acquainted with the working details of these efforts. I am, therefore, requested to invite two friends from your Institute to a conference with the Committee of this Society, to be held at 1, Exeter Hall, on Monday, the 16th inst. Kindly let me know the names of the two friends who may be expected.

Tea will be provided at 6 p.m.

J. G. GENT, Secretary.

To the Secretary or Manager of

.....Institute.

Many letters were received in reply naming the persons likely to attend. Tea was provided for the friends at No. 3, Exeter Hall, and the conference was held at No. 1, the rooms of the Ragged School Union. Lord Shaftesbury had kindly consented to preside, but found himself unable in consequence of being in the chair at another meeting. In his lordship's absence the chair was filled by Dr. Gage Brown, of Railway Boys' Mission, Nine Elms, and also of the Institute in Exeter Buildings, Chelsea. The proceedings were commenced with prayer by Mr. W. T. Paton. At the request of the chairman, Mr. Gent made a statement of the steps taken, which had led to the conference being convened, and of the desire expressed by several gentlemen for these Institutes to have the benefits of a central committee and mutual co-operation. The chairman called upon Mr. Jepson to read a paper on "Youths' Institutes," which he did, and which was as follows:—

RAGGED INSTITUTES.

"I propose to make a few suggestions concerning the mode of carrying on Ragged Institutes only, for others will be able to give the meeting more information than I can about Youths' Institutes.

Ragged Institutes are intended to reach the most ragged of that class which is, in the present day, denominated by that term. They seek to reach the most destitute, the most ignorant, degraded, independent, and vicious of our city arabs and gutter boys. The more a boy comes up to these qualifications the better pleased are we to receive him, and to help him to pass a few hours of his miserable life in the actual experience of a pure pleasure which he may never have known before, and in hearing of eternal delights which we are able at the close of the evening to tell

him surpass even the pleasures of the Institute. I am not exaggerating when I speak in this way of the pleasure of spending an evening in the Institute. I have myself seen thirty or forty young urchins quite beside themselves with joy. Only on Thursday last a member of the Committee of the Ragged School Union told me that he went one night to the Ragged Institute in Brewer's Court, and found boys there screaming and yelling from sheer delight. And this is not to be marvelled at, for what has been the experience of these boys? They have hitherto been accustomed to nothing but Night School, Sunday School, and Religious Services in the Ragged School or Mission Hall which they may have been wont to patronise. And these means, though successful in reaching a few and winning them to Christ, have failed so much as to touch the hearts of the very boys whom to draw from their profitless mode of living would be the greatest triumph and the greatest blessing. The most spirited, sharp, and independent lads are only to be attracted by showing them that they may be "religious" (as they call it) and happy at the same time. These boys are of an age at which the children of the higher classes obtain a very large amount of recreation. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The same may be said with regard to religion.

The locality in which these Institutes should be established is obvious, namely, where they are to be generally found playing in the streets and sitting on the doorsteps, though I firmly believe that you might open a Ragged Institute in *any* part of London and fill it.

A number of the boys have no home at all, and find the Ragged Institute the only place where they ever obtain warmth, shelter, kindness, or companionship. None can tell how it helps a boy who is struggling hard to keep himself above water to know that he has a place where for two hours a day he can be genuinely happy, and to be conscious that he has one friend at least in this wide world who will gladly give him advice and sympathy.

We can never hope to provide for all the destitute boys in London in "Homes," or for even an appreciable number of them, when we consider the enormous number of them. But we can get a hold of them and teach them how to fight the battle of life in the arena of conflict itself without trying to remove them from temptation and contact with vice for a time, only to fall the more easily before its onslaught when the time comes for the restrictions and influences of the Home to be removed. What we have to set before us is to bring as many boys as we possibly can to a personal knowledge of Christ as being "able to *keep* them from falling," and this the Institute can do, humanly speaking, on a far more extensive and effective scale than the Home. Our first object should be to open a Ragged Institute in every

Mission Hall and Ragged School in London, and when that is done we shall find that we have only touched the edge of the field.

There should be a regular superintendent in charge of each Institute, and he should be an earnest Christian, genial and able to amuse the boys, with ability to speak and sing and pray, and one also who will deal personally with each boy as he has an opportunity of doing so. For we must bear in mind that the one grand object of the Ragged Institute is the conversion to Christ of the boys.

For four evenings a week the superintendent's salary should be about £1 per month. I mention four evenings a week, because it is important that the Ragged Institute should never draw any away from the Night School (if any) held in the same building. On the contrary, the Ragged Institute must be the means of getting hold of the boys and passing them on into the Night School. This is easily done, since a boy is sure to ask, "Is the Institute open to-morrow night, teacher?" to which the manager says, "No, there's reading and writing here to-morrow evening, and you can come to that if you like." The boy by degrees becomes accustomed to the place and comes there every evening naturally, whatever is going on. Very soon he comes to the conclusion that on Sunday he may as well go there too, and in this way becomes an *habitué* of the place.

The Ragged Institute should be free to all so long as they behave properly, and *no pressure* should be put upon any boy to induce him to attend the Night or Sunday School.

Any prizes given should be for good conduct or proficiency in games.

In some Ragged Institutes those who come regularly and are well-behaved might have a ticket entitling them to admission at all times, whether the Institute is full or not. Those who carry on these Institutes must not be discouraged if they do not fill in the summer. It is well to keep them open during the summer, for when there are fewer boys it is easier to acquire an influence over them and to have personal dealing with them. By all means cricket should be made a part of the Institute work where practicable, for the boys will meet night after night in the Institute to talk about the matches and games.

The Ragged Institute proper is intended only for boys of fifteen and under. Boys over that age, or too respectable for the Ragged Institute proper, should be removed into a "Penny Institute," which it is advisable, where possible, to hold in another part of the same building. The boys pay a penny a week, and receive a text-card, with their name upon the back, as a ticket of admission. There are very few boys, even in the Ragged Institute proper, who cannot give a penny a week. But, in consequence of the large amount of injudicious and gratuitous charity which

prevails, these boys will do their utmost to avoid paying even a penny. They have been accustomed to have everything of this kind for nothing. At Glo'ster House the Penny Institute stood empty for nearly a month, until the boys, finding that there was no intention of opening it for nothing, gave way themselves.

It is very advisable to give no teas, no money, or relief of any kind in connection with these Institutes.

If a tea is given by any friend, it is made clear to the boys that it is not given as a part of the Institute work.

At half-past nine all the games are put away, and the boys seated for prayers. These last from fifteen to twenty minutes, and comprise a hymn, a short and simple statement of the Gospel, and a short prayer. Brevity and pith are the essentials of this service, the object being that no boy who comes in shall leave without hearing a plain statement of the Gospel, and of his own responsibility in accepting or rejecting it.

There is no reason why any boy should speak, laugh, or make any disturbance during prayers. These boys can keep quiet if they like. It has been found that the best way to secure perfect quiet and attention during prayers is to "suspend" for a week or longer term every boy who interrupts by noise or gesture. If this rule, severe though it may seem to be, is not rigidly enforced it will be as well to omit the prayers altogether. On the evening when the first Institute was opened it was necessary to turn out more than a third of the boys under the above rule. Gradually they saw that it was intended to enforce the rule, and now better order, more quiet, and greater attention will be found, than in many of the Sunday and Ragged Schools in London. In this way habits of discipline and obedience are formed, and are carried by the boys into every department of their life. The unusual severity has not been resented by the boys, but, on the contrary, has materially conduced to the happiness of the evenings which they have spent in the Institute.

A "Boys' Own" Coffee Tavern has been in operation at the Brewer's Court Ragged Institute for some months. The manager makes the coffee, cocoa, &c., and even in the summer months a profit is made sufficient to reduce the expenses of management very considerably. Coffee and cocoa are sold at ½d. per cup; slices of bread and butter (generally termed "doorsteps") and cake are also sold. All the work of the Coffee Tavern can be carried on upon a table in the same room as the Institute. The Coffee Tavern is a great attraction, and takes away from the "charitable" character of the Institute. At Brewer's Court young men of over eighteen years of age are allowed to smoke. The admission at the "Boys' Own" is free, whether the boys purchase anything or not.

In conclusion, this work amongst gutter boys is in a great degree a new effort, and much experience has yet to be gained. Moreover the field is large, and as yet the labourers are few. The expense of carrying on a Ragged Institute is small, in most cases consisting of the manager's salary and cost of gas and games; and therefore there appears to me to be no reason why a Ragged Institute, or, better still, a "Boys' Own" Coffee Tavern, should not form part of the work of every Ragged School and Mission Hall."

After the reading of the paper the subject was thrown open for discussion. Mr. Paton referred to the early efforts of these Institutes for the respectable youths, and more recently for the working lads. He spoke in terms of great respect of Mr. Baker and Mr. Tabrum, and referred to the great work being done by Mr. Hogg in Long Acre. The respectable boys can afford to meet their own expenses, and do it cheerfully, but for the working lads, and those in casual employment, aid from some source certainly was required, and a central organisation would make these Institutes better known, increase their number and efficiency, and make them increasingly deserving of public support.

Mr. Hill, jun., said he thought three classes of Institutes were required for the boys of London—first, for those of respectable and independent section of society; second, for the working lads in receipt of regular wages, and belonging mostly to the artisan classes; and thirdly, for those whose earnings are uncertain, who gain a living by casual employment, and very largely in the streets. He thought there was a large amount of appliance at present unused that was, or ought to be, available for Youths' Institutes. The great bulk of Sunday-school buildings were out of use during the evenings of the week, the very time, and the time only, when these boys can be gathered. One duty of the suggested central organisation would be to get them utilised. In such cases there would be only a nominal rent, and the fees would nearly pay other expenses.

Mr. Smith, of Stepney, stated they had utilised the large schoolrooms of Stepney meeting, and found that one half of the members attended the Stepney Sunday School. There is no cost for rent, and the expenses are almost met by the fees. Occasionally, to clear off any accumulating debt, a concert is held, which not only puts funds into their hands, but is also a good entertainment. He strongly approved of a central effort.

Mr. Farmer and Mr. Harris, representing two Institutes in Camberwell, stated they have an extremely rough element to deal with. The families are mostly the cockney Irish, under the influence of the Roman Catholic priest, the lads getting their living as costers, sweeps, and labourers. A part of the large schoolroom was divided off for the accom-

modation of these lads. Educational classes were formed, a reading-room with books, papers, &c., provided. Games were introduced as pleasant pastimes, but these became too absorbing and took the place of the more useful and elevating. Not only so, but games of chance were found to be played in a way that was difficult to discover; in other words, secret gambling. An effort was made to correct this evil by withdrawing the games; the lads resisted, and became obstreperous and violent. The institute is closed for the summer, and when reopened it will be needful to reconsider the mode of conducting it.

Mr. Jepson said that in Baker Street draughts and such games were allowed, and they seemed needful to bring the class of boys they desire to reach and benefit. The games are in a room distinct from the classes, and together they work harmoniously, the former much helping the latter. There is a considerable mixture, for some of the members are clerks—Christian youths—and boys earning five shillings a week. The management is left, under good oversight, to the lads themselves, and works with much advantage.

Mr. Fitchew, of Clapham, said they had to cater for what was popular, and use it wisely and kindly for Christian results. This Institute was called Our Room. It was open during the evenings for various classes, but Saturday evening was the Institute proper. There were games of various kinds. They had a borrowed bagatelle board at first, and when they returned it were without one for six weeks, which seriously affected the attendance. A very superior one has since been given them, and the attendance is as full as ever. It is found that the games are a great help to the classes, but there is no doubt they need a very careful and kind supervision.

Mr. Dydden, of Castle Street, said the Institute began six or seven years ago with the boys in the Ragged School. They began with 25, but now the members are 400 strong. The juniors are from 13 to 16 years of age at Castle Street, and the seniors 16 and upwards at Long Acre. The whole works harmoniously, with games, athletics, and classes of all kinds, including a Bible Class on Sunday of 300 and in the week of 100 members. No members are ever expelled for bad conduct.

Mr. Tindall, of Chelsea, referred to the statement from Camberwell, and thought if the peculiar class of that locality were more closely studied means could be devised to meet their case and influence them for their welfare. It won't do to be sternly stiff with such obstreperous young fellows. They must be treated in a way that at first falls in very much according to their own views and feelings, and without the games and pastimes this is impracticable. If the gentlemen from that locality would not consent to come down to their level, he would advise others to

come forward that could, for unless they did they would lose the little hold they have on those youths. Bad as they are, they are fellow-countrymen, they are brothers, and it is our duty to stoop that we may conquer. He had considerable experience in this work, and believed in the games, under wise discretion, would not only bring in the lads, but help us to rule them. He had laid down three simple rules, and had no very great difficulty to get them carried out. They were—no swearing, no smoking, no gambling. Obstreperous fellows must of course be suspended for a time.

Mr. Geary, of Westminster, stated he has sixty members. The three R's had nearly died out, but they did well with a drum and fife band, freehand drawing, spelling bees, geometry, singing, swimming, games, and a Bible Class.

The time having long passed for closing, the chairman summed up, and Mr. Hill offered the concluding prayer.

THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE KING EDWARD RAGGED SCHOOLS.

THE new wing of the above schools, consisting of four class-rooms was opened on Tuesday, the 8th of July, 1879, by Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., supported by the Rev. John Kennedy, D.D., the Rev. R. H. Lovell, the Rev. William Tyler, the Rev. John Thomas, B.A., the Rev. B. Allen, the Rev. D. M. Jenkins, the Rev. J. Saunders, B.A., Messrs. H. R. Williams (Treasurer), J. S. Hill, George Tyler, J. H. Lloyd, James Tidmarsh, E. Newell, H. E. Williams, C. Montague, and other members of the committee. The Ragged School Union was represented by Mr. R. J. Curtis.

The meeting having been opened with singing and prayer, the chairman called upon Mr. Montague, the honorary secretary, to read his statement, which was as follows:—

"It is just thirty-three years since Lord Ashley (now the Earl of Shaftesbury) opened the King Edward Ragged School. For some four or five years the work was carried on with great earnestness in an 'old stable' (dignified with the name of school), which occupied the site on which the new class-rooms have just been erected.

"The large and ever increasing number of children applying daily for admission to the school rendered it necessary that something more should be done to meet the wants of this necessitous district, and at a public meeting, held at the instance of the committee of the Ragged School Union in the Guildhall, presided over by the Lord Mayor and supported

by most of the leading philanthropists of that day, the sum of £430 was collected and handed to this committee, and as the result of that and other meetings a piece of freehold ground was purchased, and in due time a substantial and commodious structure was erected in Albert Street, at a cost (including the ground) of rather more than £4,000, and has since been known as the King Edward Ragged and Industrial Schools and Eastern Refuge.

"The first stone of this new building was laid on the 5th November, 1850, by the late Sir Thomas Proctor Beauchamp, whose pamphlet, entitled 'Attend to the Neglected and Remember the Forgotten,' which together with certain letters addressed by Mr. H. R. Williams to the *Times* and other papers on 'The Dens of London' and 'The Poor of Spitalfields,' did good service by calling the attention of the public to the lamentable destitution and neglect of large masses of the population.

"In July, 1851, the new building, providing accommodation for the daily instruction of 500 children, with dormitories and workrooms for forty girls, was opened by the Earl of Shaftesbury, supported by the Duke of Grafton, Lord Radstock, Samuel Gurney, Charles Buxton, and many other well-known and generous supporters of the Ragged School movement.

"In 1870 the Elementary Education Act passed, making it compulsory that all children between five and thirteen years of age should be brought under instruction.

"The committee felt that they ought no longer to ask generous friends to carry on the work of day-school instruction, and resolved to convert the building in Albert Street into an Industrial School for girls. And as the building in King Edward Street for years had little influence in gathering in the adults of the neighbourhood, it was placed at the disposal of the committee of the King Edward Ragged and Industrial Schools for the purpose of carrying on their Sunday and week evening Ragged Schools.

"For a long time past the school has been overcrowded, and frequently large numbers of children have been sent away, there being no room for them. But the teachers have laboured on patiently because they knew that the committee had their hands full of work in providing school room and sleeping accommodation for the 210 inmates in the two Industrial Schools. But in the autumn of last year one of the committee (the Rev. William Tyler) issued an appeal for funds for the enlargement of the King Edward Ragged Schools. With the good name of Lord Shaftesbury upon the circular as president of the institution, and a report of the honest work done by the teachers without fee or reward, that appeal was well received and generously responded to by the public."

Among the contributors to the Building Fund are Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., £100; Messrs. Truman, Hanbury, Buxton, and Co., £100 Sir James Tyler, £50; H. R. Williams, Esq., £50; the Rev. W. Tyler, £50; Thomas Stone, Esq., £30; the Committee of the Ragged School Union, £25; the Goldsmiths' Company, £25; J. G. Barclay, Esq., £20; R. C. L. Bevan, Esq., £20; "Coward's Trust," £20; George Sturge, Esq., £20; "J. W. A.," £12; "Berman's Charity," £10 10s.; Sir R. W. Carden, £10 10s.; The Cutlers' Company, £10 10s.; "A Friend," £10 10s.; Messrs. Mann, Crossman, and Paulin, £10 10s.; the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., President, £10; P. Cazenove, Esq., £10; Thomas Greene, Esq., £10; George Hanbury, Esq., £10; James Peek, Esq., £10; John E. Wilson, Esq., £10; and others, amounting in all to about £1,000.

The Hon. Secretary stated that he had been requested to mention the fact that some misapprehension existed as to the treasurership of these schools, and some gentlemen had written to express their regret that Mr. Williams, after his thirty-three years of service in connection with the King Edward Schools, should have ceased to be its treasurer. He begged to assure the meeting that Mr. Williams had done nothing of the kind, and that he was still the treasurer, and that the teachers and committee hoped he would be so for many years to come.

The Rev. Dr. Kennedy, in the course of an interesting address, alluded to the fact of his having, many years since, attended a meeting called by Mr. Williams to consider the propriety of providing refuge accommodation for the more destitute of the children. He believed he was right in saying that the summons was sent to a large number of gentlemen supposed to be interested in ameliorating the condition of poor children, but according to his recollection Mr. Williams and himself constituted the meeting; he thought, however, that Mr. Tyler came in at the death. He was glad to know that the objects contemplated at that time had been subsequently attained.

The resolutions, which were of a congratulatory character, and expressive of thankfulness to Almighty God for the enlarged accommodation, as well as for the success which had attended the school, were, after interesting and practical speeches from the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Rev. R. H. Lovell, Rev. John Thomas, and the Rev. J. M. Jenkins, carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, acknowledging his kindness in presiding, and for his interest in this and kindred institutions, was moved by Mr. H. R. Williams and seconded by Mr. J. H. Lloyd, and carried with acclamation. The meeting closed with the singing of the doxology.

THE TEACHERS' EXCURSION, 1879.

It was the good fortune for the teachers of Ragged Schools to spend a very happy day in 1878 in Hatfield Park, Hertfordshire, by the kind permission of the Marquis of Salisbury. And again they have been privileged to spend another day (July 19, 1879) together in Cassiobury Park, Watford, the seat of the Earl of Essex, permission having been kindly granted by his lordship. The party met at the Euston Station in the morning, and were conveyed in comfort to Watford, from which station an easy walk of about half a mile brought us to the park, where a marquee was erected, and which was to be the rendezvous for the day. This being known to the party, and the times for reassembling for dinner and tea being announced, the friends scattered hither, and thither according to taste, inclination, and walking powers. The park contains about 700 acres, and is divided by the river Gad, a branch of the Colne, and the Grand Junction Canal, into two portions, known as the Home Park and the Upper Park. In the latter are some splendid avenues of trees of more than two centuries' growth, having been planted as far back as the year 1670. Adjoining is Whippingdale Wood. In the Home Park is the Earl's residence, and at some distance across the park, by the side of the river, is the very picturesque Swiss cottage. A portion of the park is set apart for the use of the Cassiobury Cricket Club, and which was used on the day of our visit. The Watford parish church is within a walk. The Essex Chapel contains some splendid and ancient monuments of the Essex family. In the churchyard is pointed out a fig-tree that is quite a centenarian, growing out of a tomb, and visited by large numbers of persons, many of whom are pilgrims in search of the marvellous. The legend is that this tree had its initial life in the heart of an Atheist there buried, who foretold that such a tree, in such a way, would grow if he found there was another world.

The time for dinner having arrived, the marquee was punctually well filled, for the early breakfast, the railway ride, and pleasant walks quickened the appetites, and all were ready for a hearty meal. H. C. Pierson, Esq., the senior member of the Committee of the Ragged School Union, presided.

Around the Earl's residence, we were told, were some very fine gardens and pleasure-grounds, but not open to the public without a special permission. This, through the estate agent, C. F. Humbert, Esq., was obtained, and at three o'clock thrown open to the teachers, who were conducted through by one of the gardeners, who kindly and intelligently gave much information to the party. The gardens occupy about eight acres, were planted some eighty years ago, and contain a remarkable

variety of fine beautiful plants, trees, and flowers. Attention was drawn to two large granite balls or shots, thrown from mortars in the castle of Abydos, Alexandria, into the Endymion frigate, commanded by Captain Capel, in 1807, one of which measures 24 inches in diameter, and weighs 700 lb. It travelled a quarter of a mile before it reached the vessel. The smaller shot killed and wounded fifteen men.

The garden visit over, time for tea was due at the marquee, where the company again met, and when refreshed with a cup of tea, fruits, &c., reference was made by various speakers to the enjoyableness of the spot, the pleasure the garden afforded, and the kindness of Lord Essex to throw the whole open for the company. A vote of thanks was passed to his lordship for that kindness, and to C. F. Humbert, Esq., who had used his influence on behalf of the teachers. Thanks were also voted to the Committee of the Ragged School Union for their invitation, to H. C. Pierson, Esq., for presiding, and to the officers of the Society for all their kind attentions, by which a long day had been spent in pleasant places and with so much comfort.

The weather during the day was very remarkable. It was fine when leaving London, and at Watford continued fair, with one slight exception, during the day; while in London, and within two or three miles of Watford, there was a downpour for the greater part of the day. Some of the company on going for a country walk came upon the edge of the storm, where they saw the phenomenon of one side of the road wet with rain falling, and the other side dry.

THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY.

THE moans of our children, as uttered in our last number, for another summer ramble on the grass, with a long ride in vans, were not in vain. The petition was urgent and earnest.

"Has no one money they can spare—
The cost is no big sum—
To take me where the clover grows,
And bees amongst it hum!

"Oh! please do what you've done before;
Don't turn your head away!
It's only once a year we ask,
And only for one day!"

To this appeal Lord Shaftesbury added another, in these touching words:—

"Once more I take the liberty to request your aid towards giving to several hundreds of children of our Ragged Schools a day's excursion into the country.

"Every year affords an additional proof of the pleasure and benefit it confers on these poor little creatures.

"Your obedient servant,

"SHAFTESBURY."

The response to these appeals was kind and liberal. Sufficient to take the scholars from 14 schools, a total of thirteen hundred children, and 90 teachers, in forty vans, from their respective schools in all parts of London, from Stratford in far east to Marylebone in the west, and who continued their ride to the Petersham portion of Richmond Park, where provisions, toys, &c., were freely supplied to them. Having enjoyed the pleasure of games, races, &c., till six o'clock, the vans were again filled and started for home, where all reached safely. Many, hearty, and loud were the cheers of the waiting parents and others when the vans arrived and it was announced that they had all spent a happy day, July 25th, without any rain.

RICHMOND STREET MISSION AND SCHOOLS, WALWORTH.

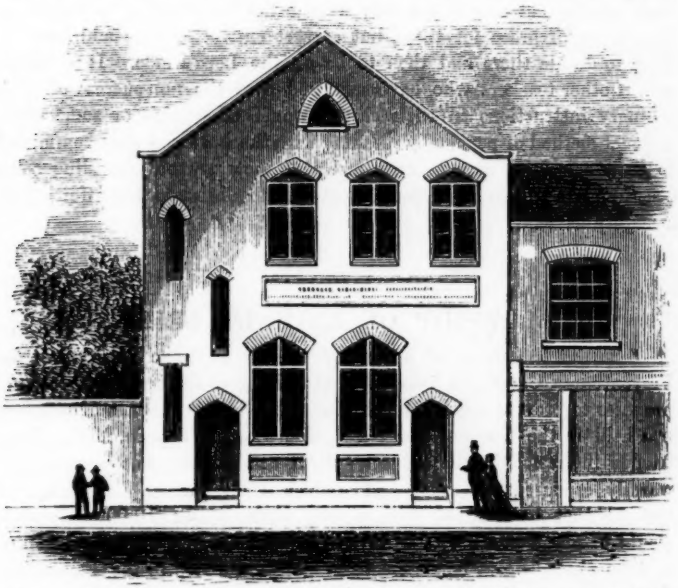
THE Richmond Street Mission has been in existence for about twenty years, although like most efforts of the kind it has been so frequently removed and improved that its early friends would scarcely recognise it in its present position and prosperity. It is an interesting occupation to trace a wide and beautiful river back to its source, and many lessons may be learned ere we reach the bubbling spring far away on some lone hillside or quiet mountain top; and it is equally pleasant and profitable, or even more so, to find out the commencement of works of usefulness which have gradually grown into rivers of mercy, affording refreshment, comfort, and joy to those who dwell near their banks. About the date already mentioned Mr. Dunn, who was then a member of the church at New Park Street, hired a room in Richmond Street, Walworth, for the purpose of "missioning" the inhabitants of the district. Possibly Mr. Spurgeon's well-known caution against "borrowed forms" had not then been uttered; at all events, two were borrowed from a builder, and cleaned by the zealous home missionary "with a lamb's tail and an old teapot full of half-dirty water" before they were placed in the room, which soon earned the title of "The Black Hole of Calcutta." A couple of candles in bright brass candlesticks served to illuminate the little company that met together on the first Sunday evening. Four boys formed the class or congregation on that memorable occasion, and before long, in response to an invitation to adults to attend the services, four old ladies also put in an appearance. The dear old souls, with charac-

teristic modesty, took the lowest seat, leaving the juveniles in undisputed possession of the other one. The day of small things was not despised, so in due time the Lord opened the way for the next development of the effort which had been begun in His name and carried on for His glory.

As the pillar of cloud seemed to tarry at that spot, the second encampment was made at the Manchester Hall, East Street, although the accommodation there was very little better than at the first halting-place. The roof was considered so unsafe that it had to be supported by two scaffold poles, which Mr. Dunn designated "Jachin and Boaz," and while the rain came in from above the rats came in from below, and there were so many of these interesting creatures in the neighbourhood wishing to be present at the services that sometimes as many as ten or a dozen would march across the room at one time. It is satisfactory to learn that, notwithstanding the adverse circumstances we have described, the hand of the Lord was with His servants, and about ten joined the church every year from this spot. In 1869 two rooms were hired in Villa Street, but they do not seem to have afforded much more comfort than the former ones, for underneath was a rag and bone yard, inside was a smoky chimney, and close at hand were sufficient malodorous drains to carry off teachers and scholars with typhoid fever. Yet, week after week, for eight years or so, earnest Christian men and women braved the dangers of this pestilential atmosphere that they might tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love to those who gathered to listen to them, and their labours were not in vain, for here many precious souls were won for Christ. It was not a cause for very deep regret when the expiration of the lease made another march necessary. Now came a trial of the workers' faith, for the only room that was available could only be obtained for Sundays, and consequently it was feared that the many week-day meetings would have to be abandoned for want of a place in which to hold them. This partial hindrance of the work became the prelude to a greater development than had been previously possible. The ebbing of the tide, which was watched so sorrowfully, was followed in due time by a more joyous flood than any that had preceded it.

As no suitable building could be hired, nothing remained for Mr. Dunn and his willing helpers but to erect one for themselves. A site was offered to them in the same street in which the Mission was commenced, at a ground-rent of £16, which, on payment of £100, was reduced to one-half that amount, and the land secured. Collectors were set to work, shortly afterwards the builders also were fully employed, and about two years ago, on a day that will long be remembered by all connected with the Mission, C. H. Spurgeon opened the new premises, and contributed £220 towards the expense of the erection. The woodcut

gives an idea of the exterior result. The buildings cost altogether £1,400, and so heartily was the project supported by numerous friends that no debt was allowed to remain as a clog to future exertions. Mr. Ellis Marsland kindly undertook the duties of architect, free of cost, and the whole affair was carried out to the complete satisfaction of everybody concerned. Last year additional accommodation for seventy or eighty children was provided by the erection of class-rooms, and at the present time nearly 600 children can be taught in the different rooms. Looking back upon the uncomfortable and unhealthy scenes of their former



labours, the staff of workers at Richmond Street Mission and Schools may well bless the Lord that He has directed them to such a goodly land, and helped them to go up and possess it in His name.

Having thus traced the history of the Mission from its commencement, we will simply add that the premises are constantly in use for religious, educational, and philanthropic purposes, one meeting at least being held every evening in the week, and quite a number of services every Sunday. The Ragged School is held every Sunday evening. This work has been for many years under the able superintendence of Mr. C. G. Barr, who has been nobly assisted by a band of self-denying teachers, numbering at the present time thirty-six. The average attendance of scholars is 317.

but as many as 409 were registered on one Sunday in 1868. During the year 2,628 copies of the *Band of Hope Review* were given to the most regular attendants, seven received prizes from the hand of the Earl of Shaftesbury in Exeter Hall, as a reward from the Ragged School Union for having kept their situations more than twelve months; and, best of all, twelve of the scholars professed to have found faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and gave satisfactory evidence that their profession was genuine. This cheering ingathering was the direct result of a special prayer-meeting held by the teachers of the three senior girls' classes with their scholars, at which not only were believing petitions presented at the throne of grace for them, but earnest entreaties were addressed to them to decide there and then to be on the Lord's side. It would be well if other teachers who have mourned over the non-success of their ordinary instructions in their classes would adopt this or some other unusual method of personally pleading with the boys and girls committed to their care. It may be that many of them are only needing some occasion like this to cause their latent love to Christ to burst forth into a mighty flame.

FELLOWSHIP OF ANIMALS' FRIENDS.

Such is the name of a new effort akin to "The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals," but which goes further, for it not only proposes to prevent cruelty, but to foster kindness. A series of meetings was held in the house of the Right Hon. Cowper Temple, M.P., of the friends interested in the subject. Lord Shaftesbury was present, and warmly espoused the cause and wished it all success. So sanguine was he that he asserted with a very little labour 10,000 adherents would be found in a very few days in Ragged Schools ready and willing to take the pledge. The Society proposes, as a step to the Fellowship, that a pledge be signed. The pledge is this:—

> "I promise to be kind to animals within my reach, and to protect them, as far as I can, from cruelty and ill-usage."

It is proposed to ask all persons, of whatever age or social position, to make such a promise. Union is strength, and it is hoped that the influence of that strength will be felt throughout the schools of the country, and especially in all Ragged Schools. Lord Shaftesbury, Right Hon. W. Cowper Temple, M.P., Mr. Gent, and Mr. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, signed without hesitation, hoping by their influence the teachers would follow suit, and then bring the subject fairly, fully, and interestingly before their scholars.

Mr. Gent, at Exeter Hall, will be happy to enrol any teacher a member and give the certificate of membership. Any member can then have a book of certificates, and enrol the children of their schools as members.

At present the chief officers are:—President, the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.; Warden, Right Hon. W. Cowper Temple, M.P.; Treasurers, The Lord Ashley and Sir Henry Hoare, Bart.; Chaplain, Rev. J. C. Wood; Secretary, Mr. A. M. Reid; Office, 13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

The Constitution of the Fellowship is:—

The Council shall consist of all past and present officers of the Chief Fellowship, and all past and present Local Wardens. The Council shall meet once a year, or oftener if summoned by the Chief Warden.

This Fellowship shall be composed of any number of Local Fellowships.

Each Local Fellowship shall have a distinctive local name and number, and may be formed by the association of persons who have taken the Pledge of the Fellowship. These shall elect a Warden, Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary, which officers shall be chosen annually. Each Fellowship shall have the power to censure or expel any member who may break the pledge.

Juvenile Members.—All members under the age of 14 shall be ranked as Juvenile Members, and will not be entitled to vote at any meeting of their Fellowship.

Probationers and Full Members.—All members shall be considered as Probationers for the first six months after signing the pledge, and may wear the ribbon of the Fellowship. Those who have kept the pledge during the six months shall be considered as full members, and will be entitled to wear the ribbon and medal obtained from the Warden of their Fellowship, each ribbon and medal to be according to sealed pattern in custody of the Chief Secretary.

The Annual Festival shall be held at such time and place as shall be appointed by the Council.

The objects of the Fellowship are:—

I. The object of this Fellowship is to promote co-operation and sympathy amongst persons of all ages and classes who desire to act kindly and conscientiously towards all animals.

II. To draw attention to the most effectual modes of discharging the duty which has been imposed by the dominion over animals given by the Creator to mankind.

III. To develop a feeling of abhorrence against all cruelty.

IV. To dissipate the thoughtlessness and ignorance which cause so much suffering to domestic animals.

V. To establish local Fellowships throughout the country, and to provide some communication and common action among them, the Bands of Mercy, and other existing kindred associations.

VI. To diffuse instruction upon the proper practical treatment of horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, fowls, birds, and other domestic animals, among those who have the care of them, and especially the young men and lads employed in farms, stables, and slaughter-houses; to provide Lectures, to institute Examinations, and to offer Prizes to school children on the treatment and the natural history of animals.

VII. To engage as many persons as possible by a voluntary pledge to become protectors of animals.

VIII. The pledge to be in the following terms:—

I promise to be kind to all the animals within my reach, and to protect them, as far as I can, from cruelty and ill-usage.

IX. The Fellowship consists of all who have taken and signed this pledge, or any other similar form or pledge that is approved by the Council. Membership will be forfeited by a breach of the pledge.

X. All Members of the Fellowship will be entitled to wear a medal with a badge of light blue ribbon.

When Lord Shaftesbury's attention had been drawn to the subject of this paper when he wrote the following letter to the Secretary:—

"*August* 31, 1878.

"Sir,—I know not of any institution in existence for the purpose of teaching 'Humanity to Animals.'

"And, indeed, however desirable, nay, necessary the attainment of such an object, I don't see how it could be reached by any form of establishment.

"The treatment of what people are pleased to call 'the Lower Creation' (though oftentimes in many respects superior to themselves) arises from ignorance, selfishness, and natural brutality.

"Much might be done in schools if teachers would take the trouble. The master of a Lancashire school wrote to me a year or two ago, and asked me how he should soften the 'feelings and manners' of his pupils towards dogs, cats, &c., which they fearfully tormented.

"I suggested an exhortation to them all assembled together, the institution of prizes, varying in degree, for essays on the right way of treating animals, fortifying their arguments by texts from Scripture. I offered to provide the books and the money; no very great sum.

"The effect was excellent. The essays were compared; they differed, of course, in merit (a secondary consideration), but the nature of the lads, so the master said, seemed to be changed. They had new views,

God be praised, of His creatures, and of their *duties* (I use the word designedly) towards them.

"Why should not the same be done elsewhere?

"Your obedient servant,

"SHAFTESBURY.

"A. M. Reid, Esq."

It is hoped the teachers will take up the subject with zest and perseverance, and prove that his lordship made a correct estimate when he promised 10,000 of his *protégés* in Ragged Schools as ready at once to become honest and useful members.

It is proposed, as a little tribute to his lordship's long and public life, and out of the respect we all have for him, to call one of the Fellowships after his name, "The Shaftesbury Fellowship," to which will belong all who become members and are connected with Ragged Schools throughout the metropolis.

Mr. Reid, of 13, Buckingham Street, W.C., will furnish all particulars and send copies of documents needed by intending members on application to him.

SUCCESSFUL ELECTION OF AN ORPHAN.

"THE Fatherless Boy. A case for Reedham. Votes for Edmund J. Belcher wanted." Such was the heading of a short notice which appeared in the *Quarterly Record* for January.

It will gratify our Ragged School friends to hear that this case has been carried to a triumphant issue. At the two elections of January and July as many as 950 votes were given, which placed the boy the eighth on the list of a successful seventeen at the summer election. The names of Messrs. Williams, Spicer, Gent, Dix, &c., which appeared on the card, were a guarantee of success. The first of these gentlemen gave time and money in addition to the influence of his name. Letters of thanks have been sent to several gentlemen by the widow, but the following letter is deserving of notice, as her impressions of Reedham will gratify the friends of this deserving charity:—

"44, Riversdale Road, Highbury,

"August 13, 1879.

"Dear Mr. Curtis,—I thought that you would like to know that I took my little boy to Reedham yesterday. We were received with every kindness by the officials and children, and I am sure that I never expected to see such a charming home and surroundings. The boys and girls all seemed to try who could show the most kindness and make the

new-comers feel at home the most. We had a very appropriate address from the Rev. Dr. Aveling, after which we sat down to a very good dinner which had been provided for the mothers and the new children. Then we all spent a very happy afternoon together, and I had the pleasure of leaving my boy quite at home and happy.

"I feel I must thank you for your kindness in aiding me as you have done, and I must return my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Gent also for the kind notice in the *Quarterly Record*; and I shall feel very grateful if you will in suitable words convey my thanks to all the friends of the Union who have assisted my boy. I pray God to bless and reward the dear friends who have been so kind to the fatherless.

"In deep gratitude, believe me,

"Yours most obliged,

"MARGARET BELCHER."

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

THE Annual Report of Major Inglis on Reformatory and Industrial Schools has just been issued, showing their working and results for the year 1878.

REFORMATORIES.—The number in England, 54; Scotland, 12; total, 66. The number under detention were, 1,439 boys, 302 girls; total, 1,741. The decrease on preceding year, 91 boys, 47 girls; total, 138. The discharges, not including transfers, were in 1878, 1,287 boys, 301 girls; total, 1,588. The discharges in preceding year were 1,310 boys, 328 girls; total, 1,638. Total receipts, £145,120 11s. 3d.; total expenditure, £139,327 0s. 10d.; plus receipts, £5,793 10s. 5d.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.—Total certified on Dec. 31, 1878, was 127; certificates issued in 1878, 5; given up, 2. The number of children under detention, 11,747 boys, 3,206 girls; total, 14,953. The year's admissions were, 2,832 boys, 731 girls; total, 3,563. The discharges were, 2,384 boys, 571 girls; total, 2,955. Total receipts for the year, £353,449 14s. 2d.; expenditure, £362,314 17s. 8d.; less receipts, £8,865 3s. 6d.

Major Inglis states the schools are managed generally with judgment and discretion, and the results compare favourably with previous years. With regard to the number in reformatories, he is of opinion that many children are sent there for detention who might be dismissed with some sort of punishment, or sent to an industrial school; and he thinks, as a rule, a boy under twelve years of age too young for a reformatory, and under eight too young for an ordinary industrial school. Respecting

industrial schools the Inspector is of opinion the School Board should be called upon to pay a much larger proportion of the expenses of purely School Board cases.

The Major reports favourably of the education and care of the children, and of the sanitary conditions of the buildings.

Notices of Meetings.

THE "ONE TUN" RAGGED SCHOOLS.

THE twenty-second annual meeting in connection with these schools, situate in Perkins's Rents and Old Pye Street, Westminster, was held in the schoolroom, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., in the chair.

The meeting was opened with prayer, and prizes were presented by the noble Chairman, who addressed each of the youthful recipients in a few encouraging words. The prizes were given as awards of merit to sixteen young servants—ten girls and six lads—who had kept their situations above twelve months with excellent characters from their employers for honesty, truthfulness, and industry. One, formerly a scholar, had sixteen years' good character. Monetary rewards were likewise given to forty-eight exhibitors of flowers and plants.

Mr. J. PAYNE read an abstract of the report, from which it appeared that the school premises would shortly be demolished for the purpose of effecting a Metropolitan Board improvement. Difficulties had presented themselves, and Lord Shaftesbury was appealed to for advice. His lordship at once decided that for the welfare of the little community the school must go on. From that moment the difficulties seemed to disappear, and it was hoped that a suitable place would soon be procured in the immediate neighbourhood. Ragged Schools were not less needed now than they were twenty years ago. They had been led to expect that the adoption of sanitary measures, improved dwellings, increased opportunities of secular education, &c., would have a powerful influence for good on the mass of the people, but what did they find from the statistics?—that so far from causing improvement in the moral and social condition of the people, there had been an increase of crime in almost every class of offence. There was only one remedy for this—the sound religious education of the rising generation.

After the recitation of the 107th Psalm by a class of boys, a very interesting feature in the programme was carried out. A little girl, on behalf of herself and fellow-children, read a letter to Lord Shaftesbury, in which they thanked his lordship for the kindness he had shown them, and begged his acceptance of a prettily worked text card and other specimens of needlework, a dressed doll, &c.

Lord SHAFTESBURY heartily thanked the children for their kind gift, and said he had mementoes from many Ragged Schools, and there was nothing he prized more. The shirts they had presented him with were the most comfortable he ever had in his life. He called attention to the great and good

work of these schools carried on for twenty-two years, and expressed an earnest hope that now they would not be allowed to cease for the want of school premises. The need for them was evident. It was very little known, but it was nevertheless a fact, that there were thousands, and in truth tens of thousands, of children in this great metropolis who were under no superintending care, and receiving no education whatever. The fact was now well known to the School Board, and they knew that their agency would not reach them. These children must be taught in a totally different way, and unless they acted on the parental system they produced but small effect. The parental system could not be introduced into the Board School. The teachers only looked after the children in school, not afterwards; their responsibility ceased when school was over. It was a totally different affair with the Ragged Schools. They watched the children, brought them into the school, and with the utmost care looked after them to adult years. Situations were found for them, and they were fairly started in life. He would ask how many Ragged School children had ever disgraced themselves. They had saved about 300,000, including those sent to the colonies, and for those situations had been obtained, and very few, he was happy to say, had brought dishonour on those who had picked them out of the streets. They had to thank God for this, and they owed a debt of gratitude to those who, like their friends Mr. and Mrs. Barker Harrison, carried on the work of rescuing thousands for the service of God and for the welfare of their country.

The usual resolutions were adopted with heartiness, having been spoken to by various friends.

NELSON STREET RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION, CAMBERWELL.

A GOODLY number of the members and workers of this mission, numbering over 40, attended a garden party at the end of August, through the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Rawlings, at their residence, Wimbledon. The guests were cordially welcomed by the host and hostess. After a little friendly chat and a stroll round the beautiful grounds tea was announced and partaken of at different tables in two rooms. Repairing again to the grounds, there was soon a scene of much joy and amusement. The occasion was taken advantage of by the members to hold the quarterly meeting in the spacious drawing-room, the chair taken by Mr. Rawlings. The proceedings opened with prayer, after which an address was delivered by Mr. Maynard. Then Dr. Manning spoke words of kindness and encouragement, and was most practical in his address. The hon. secretary, Mr. J. Kirk, said that the mission was going on satisfactorily, though the funds were short. Afterwards a discussion took place, and the proceedings were brought to a close with a special vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Rawlings for their great kindness and sympathy. A hymn was sung, and the meeting closed with prayer. The members, one and all, were then invited to dessert, which was a pleasurable surprise. This was tastefully served by their good friends, and added greatly to the enjoyment of the proceedings.